

Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting September 28, 2000

Consent Agenda

- Final review of recommendations concerning release of Literary Fund loans for placement on waiting list
- Final review of recommendations concerning applications for Literary Fund loans
- Final review of financial report of Literary Fund
- Adoption of proposal to establish a summer residential Governor's School for Agriculture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Adoption of the exclusion of scores for certain students from accountability calculation
- Approval of the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) for proposed revisions of the Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs
- Approval of the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) for proposed revisions to the July 1, 1998 Licensure Regulations for School Personnel
- Approval of Guidelines for the Donation of Obsolete Educational Technology Hardware and Software by School Boards to Students
- Request for public comment on research-based instructional models as specified in the Standards of Accreditation

Remarks by the Secretary of Education

- Secretary Wilbert Bryant thanked the Board for its work in reaching out to the community in its revisions to the Standards of Accreditation.

Resolutions and Recognitions

- Resolution of Recognition presented to Chesterfield County Public Schools, recipient of the 2000 Award for Continuing Excellence from the U. S. Senate Productivity and Quality Award Program
- Resolution of Recognition presented to the Achievable Dream Program in Newport News Public Schools
- Resolution of Appreciation presented to Cheri James, immediate past president of the Virginia Education Association
- Resolutions of Recognition presented to Virginia students who serve as national officers in their respective national vocational student organizations
- Resolution of Recognition presented to Rosemont Middle School, Norfolk Public Schools, recipient of the 2000 National School Change Award, sponsored by Fordham University Graduate School of Education and the Chase Manhattan Foundation

Discussion and Action Items

ITEM	ACTION
First review of the Accountability Advisory Committee's recommended equivalent scores for substitute tests	The Board waived first review and adopted the recommended scores.

First review of the certifications, professional licenses, and examinations that meet the technology requirement for the Board of Education's Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology	The Board waived first review and approved the criteria to be used in identifying eligible licenses, examinations, and passing scores, and the initial list of examinations. Senator Couric spoke in favor of the Board's actions. Senator Couric is the chief patron of Senate Bill 706 that called for the Board to establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal for advanced mathematics and technology.
First review of industry, professional, or trade association certifications to meet the requirements for the Board of Education's Career and Technical Education Seal	The Board waived first review and approved the criteria to be used in identifying eligible certifications, and the initial list of certifications.
First review of an amendment to Article Ten of the Board Bylaws (Student Advisory Committee)	The Board approved the amendment for first review. The amendment specifies that the four at-large members would be middle school students, that there would be at least three meetings instead of four, and that the President or his designee would chair the meetings.
First review of the Virginia Plan for Title II Reporting Requirements of the Higher Education Act	The Board waived first review and approved the plan.
First review of the Board of Education Standards Governing Issuance of a Regular Five-Year License to Individuals Holding a Local Eligibility License	The Board waived first review and approved the standards.
First review of Standards of Learning revision schedule	The Board waived first review and approved the schedule.
First review of the Accountability Advisory Committee's recommended criteria for students eligible for "emergency" retakes of SOL tests	The Board waived first review and approved the criteria.
First review of Virginia's application for the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed-Flex)	The Board waived first review and approved the application.
First review of the School Improvement Amendment to the Consolidated State Application	The Board waived first review and approved the application.
Report on the cost of implementing and complying with the Standards of Accreditation	The Board reviewed the report, noting that school divisions reported difficulty in estimating their costs accurately, and approved submission of the report to the General Assembly, with the addition of information conveying the general increase in state aid to education over the same time period.
Report of the Spring 2000 results of the	The Board accepted the report.

Standards of Learning tests	
Report of the activities of the SOL Content Review Committees' summer meeting	The Board accepted the report.
Report on the revision of the history and social sciences Standards of Learning	The Board deferred this item until the October meeting.
First Review of Emergency Regulations Governing the Criteria for Determining, Biennially, Critical Shortage Areas for Awarding Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program	Planned agenda item for the October meeting.

Public Comment

- One person spoke to ask the Board to consider the development of a series of modified Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments. The achievement of a passing score on these different forms of SOL tests would result in earned verified credits.
- One person spoke to ask the Board of Education to consider alternatives to SOL tests as measures of student academic achievement, such as evidence of classroom work. These alternatives would be more extensive and it was suggested that they would affect more students than the tests currently approved by the board as substitute SOL assessments.

Public Hearing

- One person spoke and submitted comments on the proposed Regulations Governing the Secondary School Transcript.